

STATE OF ALABAMA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 304260 MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

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SEATUS TECHNOLOGIES, LLC D/B/A WYTH

DOCKET 33197

JOHN A. GARNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PERMIT TNC-5

Applicant

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about May 6, 2022, Seatus Technologies, LLC d/b/a Wyth ("Wyth"), a permitted transportation network company ("TNC"), submitted a request for a temporary waiver from Rule TNC-7 and Rule TNC-3(d) for its "carpool" service. Wyth's one-page filing asserts that following these rules for "each carpool ride would cause substantial harm to the company."

Rule TNC-7 specifies the requirements for vehicle inspections for TNC drivers. This rule requires initial and annual vehicle inspections for a TNC driver to use a vehicle to provide TNC service. Rule TNC-7 mandates a 20-point inspection performed by a certified mechanic. Rule TNC-3(d) requires TNCs to perform checks on the TNC drivers on its platform. This rule echoes the requirements in Ala. Code § 32-7C-29 regarding criminal background and driver record checks of TNC drivers. The purpose of these rules is to promote safe TNC service—one rule requiring safe vehicles and the other requiring vetted drivers.

Despite the clear safety objective of these rules, Wyth's petition failed to explain how it would provide for safe TNC service if the Commission granted the requested waiver. Wyth's petition only pointed to the "substantial harm" of compliance as the basis for approval of the waiver. Even if Wyth had provided alternative mechanisms to ensure safety, many of the TNC

driver requirements are mandated by Alabama law (*see* Ala. Code § 32-7C-29) and not waivable by this Commission. For these reasons, the requested waiver is due to be denied.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, that Seatus Technologies, LLC d/b/a Wyth's requested temporary waiver from Rule TNC-7 and Rule TNC-3(d) is hereby denied.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that jurisdiction in this cause is retained for whatever order or orders deemed appropriate by the Commission.

DONE at Montgomery, Alabama this 27 day of June, 2022.

ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh, President

Jeremy H. Oden, Commissioner

Chris "Chip" Beeker, Jr., Commissioner

ATTEST: A True Cop

Walter L. Thomas, Jr., Secretary